LOCAL SUBJECTS.

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CARDAMOM HILLS DISTRICT.

234. Outlet road from the Cardamom Hills.

Mr. G. A. Baker on behalf of Mr. H. M. Knight (Cardamom Planters' Association) observed that a sum of Rs. 10,000 had been sanctioned by Government for the opening of outlet roads but, so far, only one of them *viz.*, the Pathinettampadi road, had been cut. The trace of this had been passed by the Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills and paid for by Government, but the sanctioned cost of the road already cut had not been paid for, because it lay outside Travancore territory, and only the verbal sanction of the Zemindar of Thevaram through whose land it passed had been obtained which the Government considered insufficient. This road was daily used by both the officers and the ryots of the Cardamom Hills and the late Dewan travelled down it as the only means of carrying out his inspection. He therefore prayed that the sanctioned cost of the road might be paid by Government and the annual cost of upkeep at Rs. 30 per mile be allowed with retrospective effect for three years, as it was undoubted hardship that the cost and upkeep of the road should be borne by an individual ryot when it was used by the general public.

Reply.—Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned and the planters have been asked to get the necessary permission from the British authorities for opening the roads which have to pass through British territories. In reference to a representation from the planters, Government have already replied that they could not undertake to obtain this permission for them.

235. Improvements to the main road.

Mr. G. A. Baker on behalf of Mr. H. M. Knight (Cardamom Planters' Association) represented that the improvements in the main road so far completed had not yet been paid for, though sanctioned, because the work connected with the roads in the Cardamom Hills had been taken away from the Cardamom Superintendent and entrusted to the Public Works Department. The work of the Gudumpara

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bridge, which was sanctioned and the plans for which were approved of by the late Cardamom Superintendent, had been passed by the present Superintendent, but was not paid for by the D. P. W. on the plea that no funds had been received from the Cardamom department for this purpose. Another bridge on the main road had also been not paid for, for similar reasons.

Reply.—The Chief Engineer will be requested to see to the matter.

236. Jurisdiction of the Magistrates of the Cardamom Hills.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) said that there was some misunderstanding as to the southern boundary of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates of the Cardamom Hills and this caused great inconvenience to planters and other employers of labour. He prayed that, as a tentative measure, all the estates and lands east of the present Rani Reserve boundary as also those in the watershed of the Pulagayar, might be soon gazetted as being within the jurisdiction of the Cardamom Hills Magistrates. The District Magistrate of the Cardamom Hills now refused to take up cases from Mundakayam as he thought he had no jurisdiction over that area. He wished to remind the Government that this matter was brought up at the last session of the Assembly and Government then promised that the request would be favourably considered.

Reply.—As regards the territorial jurisdiction of the Cardamom Hills Magistrates, the matter is under consideration and will be disposed of after local inspection. In the meanwhile, Mr. Kenyon will have first class powers, and the Kanjirapalli Magistrate has already been invested with second class powers.

237. Kuttikal road.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) said that, when last year he represented the urgent necessity of opening this road and extending it to Yendar, Government promised that they would sanction the road, as prayed for. The Chief Engineer had submitted a moderate estimate and the planters were ready to commence the work at once but sanction was not accorded on account of a territorial dispute between Government and the Poonjat Chief now pending before the Alleppey District Court. To obviate this difficulty, the planters had already

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